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**From:** EOC Report (CDC)  
**Sent:** Fri 1/10/2014 1:08:54 AM  
**Subject:** HHS R3 Awareness SPOTREP: Chemical Release Charleston, WV

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#### **HHS R3 Awareness SPOTREP: Chemical Release Charleston, WV**

**Source:** DHS, FEMA, R3 REC

**What:** The WV State Department of Environmental Protection is investigating a chemical leak

Thursday that caused a "licorice" smell to settle over part of Charleston. Freedom Industries (located at 1015 Barlow Dr.) in the old Pennzoil refinery reported one of its products, 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, leaked through the facility's secondary containment and into the Elk River, according to DEP spokesperson.

American Water (A Water Utility Company), downstream from the leak, reports that if they shut the water plant down right now they have approx. 2hrs to de-pressurization. The potential impact of a shutdown could affect around 100,000 residents (approximately 5% of the state) in Lincoln, Jackson, Kanawha, Boone, and Putnam counties. The state is anticipating a multi-day issue with no potable water. Water production loss is approx. 30-40 million gallons per day. Alternate water supply options are being discussed. EAS system is being activated now for a do not use or consume notice.

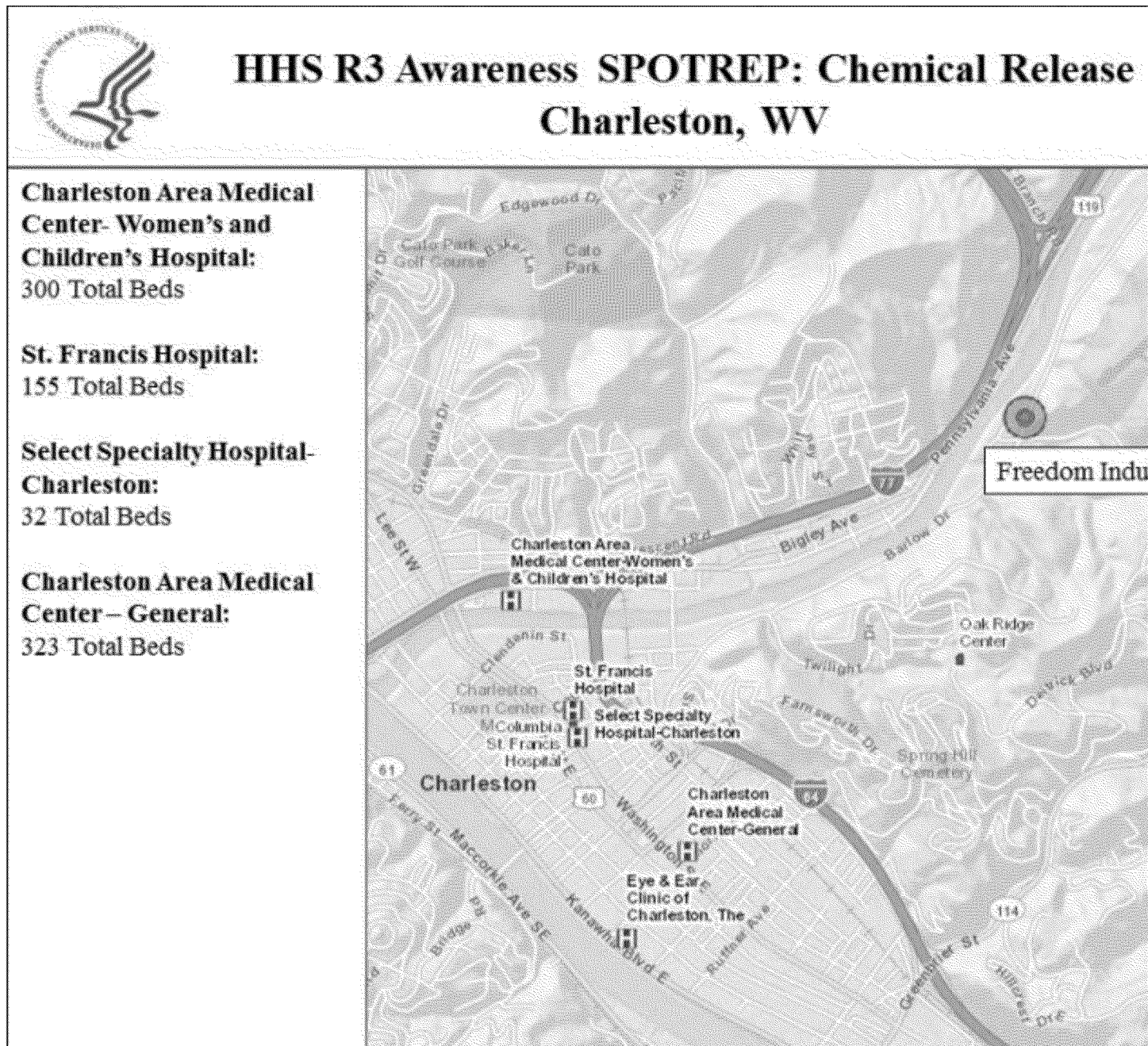
- The chemical leaking is 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (risk of irritation to eyes, respiratory system and skin) but non-toxic. WVAW customers are told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. You can use the water for toilets and fire emergencies. Boiling water will not get rid of the chemical.
- The spill is upriver about 1 to 2 miles from the Charleston Area Medical Center
- The chemical leaked through a secondary containment into the Elk river (upstream from water intakes)
- West Virginia water authority is evaluating shutting down the Water Treatment Plant, which would result in a lack of potable water to approximately 100,000 people; the plant is responsible for roughly 30-40 million gallons of water/day

#### Response Activities:

- West Virginia EOC fully activated at 1900 EST tonight
- WV has activated their State Health Operations Center. The activation is in response to a chemical leak that has contaminated the distribution system. Do not use alerts for drinking water have been issued to several counties.
- FEMA Region III RRCC is activated to a Level II
- FEMA Region III LNO is on scene
- FEMA Region III IMAT is on Alert if needed
- There have been no requests for FEMA assistance

**When:** Time of incident: 09Jan14 1700EST

**Where:** R3 Charleston, WV



Medical facilities close by:

**Charleston Area Medical Center- Women's and Children's Hospital:**

- 300 Total Beds

**St. Francis Hospital:**

- 155 Total Beds

**Select Specialty Hospital- Charleston:**

- 32 Total Beds

**Charleston Area Medical Center – General:**

- 323 Total Beds

**Why:** CIR 3: Manmade incident that could have public health or medical implication in the United States, its territories or a large international population including suspected acts of terrorism or suspected use of weapons of mass destruction.

**Actions/Follow Ups:** R3 RECs are in communication with the State Health Department of WV and are monitoring the situation. No Requests for ESF-8 assistance have been received. The SOC and will continue to closely monitor this situation and will provide updates as needed. *This message was distributed to Tiers I-II.*

**Prepared By:**